

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, KS, US, CH

SUBJECT:ROKG INQUIRY ON PRM-10 STORY

REF: SEOUL 4681

1. IN VIEW OF CHINESE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT U.S. POLICY, BRZEZINSKI BRIEFED CHINESE LEADERS IN PEKING ON PRM-10 AND PD-18 AND HUNTINGTON GAVE MORE EXTENSIVE DESCRIPTION TO PRESIDENT OF CHINESE PEOPLES' INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BOTH MADE THE POINT THAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF PRM-10 AS EMBODIED IN PD-18 SUPPORTED THE CONTINUATION OF A STRONG DEFENSE POLICY, INCLUDING AN ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE OF STRATEGIC FORCES WITH THE SOVIET UNION, STRENGTHENED DEFENSE IN EUROPE, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CURRENT U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN EAST ASIA (EXCEPT FOR THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE 2ND DIVISION, WHICH IS TO REMAIN PRIMARILY ORIENTED TO ASIAN CONTINGENCIES), AND THE DEVELOP-
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MENT OF A QUICK REACTION FORCE TO SUPPORT U.S. INTEREST IN ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST, OR ELSEWHERE.

2. REFTTEL REFLECTS CONTINUING ROKG MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRM-10 AND PD-18, WHICH WE HAVE IN THE PAST CAREFULLY TRIED TO CLARIFY TO KOREAN OFFICIALS. NEITHER PD-18 NOR ANY OTHER RELEVANT USG POLICY STATEMENT IDENTIFIES A "BASE

PRESERVATION LINE" AS ALLEGED. AS DR. BRZEZINSKI STRESSED IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT PARK, THE U.S. REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE ROK UNDER THE TERMS OF THE US-ROK SECURITY TREATY, AND THIS WAS MADE SPECIFICALLY CLEAR TO CHINESE LEADERS AS WELL.

3. ABOVE MAY BE CONVEYED TO ROKG IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY. VANCE

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